

associating said at least two items with each other, in response to said identifications.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein receiving comprises receiving identification signals produced in response to respective links embodied in physical objects.

43. (New) The method of claim 42 wherein each of said links comprises a barcode and wherein receiving comprises receiving said identification signals from a barcode reader.

44. (New) The method of claim 42 further comprising causing an output device to produce the links embodied in the physical objects.

45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein causing comprises causing a barcode printer to produce the links by printing barcodes on the physical objects.

46. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein receiving comprises receiving identifications of respective items of remote data received from at least one remote input device.

47. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising receiving a plurality of said items of remote data from said at least one remote input device and storing said plurality of said items.

48. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein associating comprises defining a meaningful grouping comprising said at least two items.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein defining comprises generating an identification of said meaningful grouping, and associating said identification with said identifications of said at least two items.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising causing an output device to produce a link embodied in a physical object, said link comprising said identification of said meaningful grouping.

51. (New) The method of claim 51 wherein causing comprises causing a barcode printer to produce said link by printing a barcode on said physical object.

52. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein said at least two items comprise at least two pieces of evidence, and wherein defining comprises defining a pattern comprising said at least two pieces of evidence.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising:  
receiving pattern identifications of at least two respective patterns; and  
associating said at least two patterns with each other, in response to said pattern identifications.

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54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein receiving pattern identifications comprises receiving pattern identification signals produced in response to respective links embodied in physical objects.

55. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein each of said links comprises a barcode and wherein receiving comprises receiving said pattern identification signals from a barcode reader.

56. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein associating said at least two patterns comprises defining a second meaningful grouping comprising said at least two patterns.

57. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein defining comprises generating an identification of said second meaningful grouping, and associating said identification with said identifications of said at least two patterns.

58. (New) The method of claim 57 further comprising causing an output device to produce a link embodied in a physical object, said link comprising said identification of said second meaningful grouping.

59. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein causing comprises causing a barcode printer to produce said link by printing a barcode on said physical object.

60. (New) The method of claim 56 wherein defining said second meaningful grouping comprises defining a theme comprising said at least two patterns.

61. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein receiving comprises receiving an identification of at least one item of remote data received from a remote input device, and an identification of at least one item of local data received from a local input device.

62. (New) The method of claim 61 further comprising receiving and storing a plurality of said items of remote data and a plurality of said items of local data.

63. (New) The method of claim 41 further comprising receiving a command signal produced in response to a command link embodied in a physical object, and executing an associated command in response to said command signal.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein said command link comprises a barcode and wherein receiving comprises receiving said command signal from a barcode reader.

65. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein executing comprises executing a direct action command.

66. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising receiving an item identification signal representing a particular item in respect of which said associated command is to be executed.

67. (New) The method of claim 66 wherein executing comprises causing multimedia content associated with said particular item to be presented to a user.

68. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising receiving a plurality of item identification signals representing a plurality of respective items in respect of which said associated command is to be executed.

69. (New) The method of claim 68 wherein executing comprises defining a meaningful grouping comprising said plurality of respective items.

70. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising receiving a plurality of grouping identification signals representing a plurality of respective groupings of items in respect of which said associated command is to be executed.

71. (New) The method of claim 70 wherein executing comprises defining a second meaningful grouping comprising said plurality of respective groupings.

72. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising causing a display device to display an indication that said command is being executed.

73. (New) The method of claim 42 further comprising concurrently causing a plurality of displays relating to said items to be displayed on a plurality of respective display screens.

74. (New) The method of claim 73 further comprising, for each display on each respective corresponding display screen, selecting a font size of displayed text in inverse proportion to a physical size of said corresponding display screen.

75. (New) The method of claim 73 wherein concurrently causing a plurality of displays to be displayed comprises concurrently causing the display of: a first display for displaying associations between said items; a second display for displaying multimedia content associated with said items; and a third display for displaying at least some of said information.

76. (New) A method of facilitating product design, comprising the method of claim 41 wherein said items comprise information relating to requirements for a design of a product.

77. (New) The method of claim 76 wherein said items comprise at least some information selected from the group consisting of: an environment in which said product is to be made or used, work practices relevant to said requirements, activities of an organization that is to make or use said product, and behaviors of consumers that are to use said product.

78. (New) An apparatus for facilitating information analysis, the apparatus comprising a processor circuit configured to:

receive identifications of at least two respective items, said items comprising information to be analyzed; and

associate said at least two items with each other, in response to said identifications.

79. (New) The apparatus of claim 78 wherein said processor circuit is configured to receive from an input device, as said identifications, identification signals produced in response to respective links embodied in physical objects.

80. (New) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein each of said links comprises a barcode and wherein said processor circuit is in communication with a barcode reader to receive said identification signals therefrom.

81. (New) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein said processor circuit is configured to cause an output device to produce the links embodied in the physical objects.

82. (New) The apparatus of claim 81 wherein said processor circuit is configured to cause a barcode printer to produce the links by printing barcodes on the physical objects.

83. (New) The apparatus of claim 78 wherein said processor circuit is configured to receive, as said identifications, identifications of respective items of remote data received from at least one remote input device.

84. (New) The apparatus of claim 83 wherein said processor circuit is configured to receive a plurality of said items of remote data from said at least one remote input device and to store said plurality of said items.

85. (New) The apparatus of claim 78 wherein said processor circuit is configured to associate said at least two items by defining a meaningful grouping comprising said at least two items.

86. (New) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein said processor circuit is configured to generate an identification of said meaningful grouping, and is configured to associate said identification with said identifications of said at least two items.

87. (New) The apparatus of claim 86 wherein said processor circuit is configured to cause an output device to produce a link embodied in a physical object, said link comprising said identification of said meaningful grouping.

88. (New) The apparatus of claim 87 wherein said processor circuit is configured to cause a barcode printer to produce said link by printing a barcode on said physical object.

89. (New) The apparatus of claim 85 wherein said at least two items comprise at least two pieces of evidence, and wherein said processor circuit is configured to define, as said meaningful grouping, a pattern comprising said at least two pieces of evidence.

90. (New) The apparatus of claim 89, wherein said processor circuit is configured to:  
receive pattern identifications of at least two respective patterns; and

associate said at least two patterns with each other, in response to said pattern identifications.

91. (New) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein said processor circuit is configured to receive, as said pattern identifications, pattern identification signals produced in response to respective links embodied in physical objects.

92. (New) The apparatus of claim 91 wherein each of said links comprises a barcode and wherein said processor circuit is configured to receive said pattern identification signals from a barcode reader.

a 93. (New) The apparatus of claim 90 wherein said processor circuit is configured to associate said at least two patterns by defining a second meaningful grouping comprising said at least two patterns.

94. (New) The apparatus of claim 93 wherein said processor circuit is configured to generate an identification of said second meaningful grouping, and is configured to associate said identification with said identifications of said at least two patterns.

95. (New) The apparatus of claim 94 wherein said processor circuit is configured to cause an output device to produce a link embodied in a physical object, said link comprising said identification of said second meaningful grouping.

96. (New) The apparatus of claim 95 wherein said processor circuit is configured to cause a barcode printer to produce said link by printing a barcode on said physical object.

97. (New) The apparatus of claim 93 wherein said processor circuit is configured to define, as said second meaningful grouping, a theme comprising said at least two patterns.

98. (New) The apparatus of claim 78 wherein said processor circuit is configured to receive, as said identifications, an identification of at least one item of remote data received from

a remote input device, and an identification of at least one item of local data received from a local input device.

99. (New) The apparatus of claim 98 wherein said processor circuit is in communication with said remote input device and said local input device, and is configured to receive and store a plurality of said items of remote data and a plurality of said items of local data.

100. (New) The apparatus of claim 78 wherein said processor circuit is configured to receive a command signal produced by an input device in response to a command link embodied in a physical object, and is configured to execute an associated command in response to said command signal.

101. (New) The apparatus of claim 100 wherein said command link comprises a barcode and wherein said processor circuit is configured to receive said command signal from a barcode reader.

102. (New) The apparatus of claim 100 wherein said processor circuit is configured to execute, as said command, a direct action command.

103. (New) The apparatus of claim 100 wherein said processor circuit is configured to receive an item identification signal representing a particular item in respect of which said associated command is to be executed.

104. (New) The apparatus of claim 103 wherein said processor circuit is configured to execute said command by causing multimedia content associated with particular item to be presented to a user.

105. (New) The apparatus of claim 100 wherein said processor circuit is configured to receive a plurality of item identification signals representing a plurality of respective items in respect of which said associated command is to be executed.



106. (New) The apparatus of claim 105 wherein said processor circuit is configured to execute said command by defining a meaningful grouping comprising said plurality of respective items.

107. (New) The apparatus of claim 100 wherein said processor circuit is configured to receive a plurality of grouping identification signals representing a plurality of respective groupings of items in respect of which said associated command is to be executed.

108. (New) The apparatus of claim 107 wherein said processor circuit is configured to execute said command by defining a second meaningful grouping comprising said plurality of respective groupings.

109. (New) The apparatus of claim 100 wherein said processor circuit is configured to cause a display device to display an indication that said command is being executed.

110. (New) The apparatus of claim 79 wherein said processor circuit is configured to concurrently cause a plurality of displays relating to said items to be displayed on a plurality of respective display screens.

111. (New) The apparatus of claim 110 wherein, for each display on each respective corresponding display screen, said processor circuit is configured to select a font size of displayed text in inverse proportion to a physical size of said corresponding display screen.

112. (New) The apparatus of claim 110 wherein said processor circuit is configured to concurrently cause the display of: a first display for displaying associations between said items; a second display for displaying multimedia content associated with said items; and a third display for displaying at least some of said information.

113. (New) An apparatus for facilitating product design, comprising the apparatus of claim 78 wherein said items comprise information relating to requirements for a design of a product.

114. (New) The apparatus of claim 113 wherein said items comprise at least some information selected from the group consisting of: an environment in which said product is to be made or used, work practices relevant to said requirements, activities of an organization that is to make or use said product, and behaviors of consumers that are to use said product.

115. (New) A computer-readable medium providing codes for directing a processor circuit to:

U receive identifications of at least two respective items, said items comprising information to be analyzed; and

associate said at least two items with each other, in response to said identifications.

116. (New) The medium of claim 115 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive from an input device, as said identifications, identification signals produced in response to respective links embodied in physical objects.

117. (New) The medium of claim 116 wherein each of said links comprises a barcode and wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive said identification signals from a barcode reader.

118. (New) The medium of claim 116 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to cause an output device to produce the links embodied in the physical objects.

119. (New) The medium of claim 118 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to cause a barcode printer to produce the links by printing barcodes on the physical objects.

120. (New) The medium of claim 115 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive, as said identifications, identifications of respective items of remote data received from at least one remote input device.

121. (New) The medium of claim 120 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive a plurality of said items of remote data from said at least one remote input device and to store said plurality of said items.

122. (New) The medium of claim 115 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to associate said at least two items by defining a meaningful grouping comprising said at least two items.

123. (New) The medium of claim 122 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to generate an identification of said meaningful grouping, and to associate said identification with said identifications of said at least two items.

124. (New) The medium of claim 123 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to cause an output device to produce a link embodied in a physical object, said link comprising said identification of said meaningful grouping.

125. (New) The medium of claim 124 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to cause a barcode printer to produce said link by printing a barcode on said physical object.

126. (New) The medium of claim 122 wherein said at least two items comprise at least two pieces of evidence, and wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to define, as said meaningful grouping, a pattern comprising said at least two pieces of evidence.

127. (New) The medium of claim 126, wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to:

receive pattern identifications of at least two respective patterns; and  
associate said at least two patterns with each other, in response to said pattern identifications.

128. (New) The medium of claim 127 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive, as said pattern identifications, pattern identification signals produced in response to respective links embodied in physical objects.

129. (New) The medium of claim 128 wherein each of said links comprises a barcode and wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive said pattern identification signals from a barcode reader.

130. (New) The medium of claim 127 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to associate said at least two patterns by defining a second meaningful grouping comprising said at least two patterns.

130. (New) The medium of claim 130 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to generate an identification of said second meaningful grouping, and to associate said identification with said identifications of said at least two patterns.

132. (New) The medium of claim 131 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to cause an output device to produce a link embodied in a physical object, said link comprising said identification of said second meaningful grouping.

133. (New) The medium of claim 132 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to cause a barcode printer to produce said link by printing a barcode on said physical object.

134. (New) The medium of claim 130 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to define, as said second meaningful grouping, a theme comprising said at least two patterns.

135. (New) The medium of claim 115 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive, as said identifications, an identification of at least one item of remote data received from a remote input device, and an identification of at least one item of local data received from a local input device.

136. (New) The medium of claim 135 wherein said processor circuit is in communication with said remote input device and said local input device, and wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive and store a plurality of said items of remote data and a plurality of said items of local data.

C 137. (New) The medium of claim 115 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive a command signal produced by an input device in response to a command link embodied in a physical object, and to execute an associated command in response to said command signal.

138. (New) The medium of claim 137 wherein said command link comprises a barcode and wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive said command signal from a barcode reader.

139. (New) The medium of claim 137 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to execute, as said command, a direct action command.

140. (New) The medium of claim 137 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive an item identification signal representing a particular item in respect of which said associated command is to be executed.

141. (New) The medium of claim 140 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to execute said command by causing multimedia content associated with said particular item to be presented to a user.

142. (New) The medium of claim 137 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive a plurality of item identification signals representing a plurality of respective items in respect of which said associated command is to be executed.

143. (New) The medium of claim 142 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to execute said command by defining a meaningful grouping comprising said plurality of respective items.

C 144. (New) The medium of claim 137 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to receive a plurality of grouping identification signals representing a plurality of respective groupings of items in respect of which said associated command is to be executed.

145. (New) The medium of claim 144 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to execute said command by defining a second meaningful grouping comprising said plurality of respective groupings.

146. (New) The medium of claim 137 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to cause a display device to display an indication that said command is being executed.

147. (New) The medium of claim 116 wherein said codes configure said processor circuit to concurrently cause a plurality of displays relating to said items to be displayed on a plurality of respective display screens.

148. (New) The medium of claim 147 wherein, for each display on each respective corresponding display screen, said codes configure said processor circuit to select a font size of displayed text in inverse proportion to a physical size of said corresponding display screen.